

29. Notice of two new species of British Sponges.—When on the west coast of the island of Islay, in the summer of 1825, I observed, at low water, many small pools, in the gneiss and mica-slate cliffs near Portnahaven, completely lined with millipores, from whose elevated lobes large specimens of the *Coralina officinalis*, and tufts of the delicate *Corallina rubens*, shot up their jointed branches. On the lower part of the rocks, I found some dwarfish specimens of the *Sertularia pumila*, and *Acyonium gelatinosum*, clinging to the leaves of the *Fucus serratus* and *vesiculosus*, and, along with some flustræ, adhering to the cuplike portions of the *Fucus loreus*; the deeper parts between the precipices waved with lofty forests of the *Fucus palmatus*. At the bottom of the cliffs, which are excavated into fearful caves, and long narrow coves, by the action of an ever tempestuous sea, I perceived, amidst a rich display of marine vegetation, numerous specimens of the *Spongia papillaris*, and of the *Spongia tomentosa*, which appears to be only a variety of the same species. My attention was attracted at this place by a substance of a deep blood red colour, about two inches in diameter, and spread as a thin layer on the under surface of one of the rocks. From its dangerous situation, I could only obtain some particles of it, sufficient, however, to show that it was a species of sponge hitherto unknown to me. This summer (1826) I met again with the same blood red species on the shores of Iona, and abundantly on Staffa; and on landing at ebb-tide at the entrance of the spar cave (Macalister's Cave) in Skye, I found it in large patches on the under surface of the slaty projections, on the left side of the cove, which leads up to these magnificent subterranean vaults. I have represented the form of its spiculum magnified fifty times, (Pl. II. fig. 9.); and as the concurrent opinion of my friend Dr Fleming leaves no doubt in my mind of its being a new species, I have termed it *Spongia sanguinea*, from its very striking blood-red colour in the living state. It spreads on the under surface of rocks to the extent sometimes of six inches in diameter, with a thickness of more than half an inch, and it has always the same deep red colour. The general surface is flat; but, on minute examination, it is found to be covered with numerous small round elevations and depressions, and the fecal orifices, which are numerous and small,

are always observed in the depressed parts. The pores are very minute, and appear like perforations made by needles of different sizes. This species feels very slimy when torn, and abounds nearly as much with parenchymatous matter as the *Spongia panicea*, to which it has a close affinity in its general form and habits. Its spicula are silicious, rather long, (taking always that of the *Spongilla friabilis* (Pl. II. fig. 1.) as a standard of comparison), curved, equally thick throughout, obtuse at one end, and pointed at the other, (see Pl. II. fig. 9.). The spiculum which I have represented in Pl. II. fig. 3., belongs to a sponge, which I likewise believe to be an undescribed British species, and which I have named *Spongia cinerea*, from its remarkable blackish grey colour. I met only with a single specimen of this sessile species, about two years ago, in the Firth of Forth, and I have not since observed it on any other coast. It grew on the inclined side of a rock, had an irregular outline, and was about three inches in length, one in breadth, and half an inch in thickness. My attention was attracted to this specimen, from its perfect resemblance to a dark putrid sponge, but on immersing it in water, I found it still in a high state of vitality. Its surface was smooth, convex, fleshy and transparent. Its pores required a lens to be distinctly seen, and its fecal orifices were few, very large, regularly circular, and lay rather deeper than the general surface. Its spicula were remarkably uniform in size, rather small, curved, equally thick throughout, pointed suddenly at both ends, and silicious, (see Pl. II. fig. 3.)

—*Dr Grant.*

30. *South African Museum.*—(1st Series.). The attention of the public is particularly requested, by Dr Smith, Superintendent of the South African Museum, to the following Queries, and information on the points to which they allude is most earnestly solicited from such individuals as may have had opportunities of acquiring it. 1. Does the Tiger Wolf, or what is generally denominated the Cape Wolf, carry away its prey; or does it always devour it on the spot where it first finds it? 2. If he ever carries it away, what seems to be his reason or reasons for so doing? 3. When he happens to fall in with more than he can at once consume, does he simply abandon the surplus, or does he carry it away? 4. When they have young,